

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, favorable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-17 are pending further consideration and new dependent claims 25-28 are added for consideration.

By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are amended above so as to more clearly set forth and distinctly claim the novel and patentable features set forth in these claims. The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter has been added. If the Examiner should disagree, however, it is respectfully requested that the challenged amendments/limitations be pointed out with particularity in the next Action so support may be cited in response.

Re the 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) Rejections:

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8-12, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,115,031) in view of Mine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,863,248), and further in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,431,782) is respectfully traversed.

There is no teaching or suggestion by Kobayashi or by any other cited art reference of record of providing a first game screen image presenting a full-extent field of view of the game space area on a display of a single device which is used/viewable by only a single player and further including a second game screen image presenting together at the same time one or more narrow-extent field of views of the playable game space centered about other player-controlled characters other than the first character on a single common display device which is viewable by multiple players, as set forth in Applicants' independent claims 1 and 9 as amended above.

In regard to Applicants' independent claim 17 as amended above, there is no teaching or suggestion by Kobayashi or by any other cited art reference of record of providing "a multiplayer network game including a network server computer and a plurality of terminal devices coupled to a network" wherein each terminal device includes a display device and an operation mechanism with which to operate a game character, and wherein the network server computer exerts overall control over the network game and game screen images provided to each terminal, and wherein the network server computer also includes: "first game screen output programmed logic circuitry configured to output to a single terminal display device a first game screen image presenting a full-extent field of view of the game space showing the first character and at least one or more other game character" and also includes "second game screen output programmed logic circuitry configured to output to a different terminal display device a second game screen image presenting a narrow-extent field of view of the game space from the second game character's viewpoint within the game space"; and wherein each terminal device display device displays "either the first game screen image or the second game screen image, each having different extents of a field of view of the game space, depending on which game character is being controlled at the terminal device", in the manner as set forth in Applicants' claim 17.

The rejection of dependent claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyamoto et al. in view of Mine et al. and in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Kaku et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0013172) is also respectfully traversed for at least the same reason as stated above in regard to independent claims 1 and 9, since these dependent claims respectively incorporate the features of independent claims 1 and 9 from which they depend.

Likewise, the rejection of dependent claims 7 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyamoto et al. in view of Mine et al. and in view of Kobayashi and further in view of the Madden 2000 instruction manual is also respectfully traversed for at least the same reason as stated above in regard to independent claims 1 and 9, since these dependent claims also respectively incorporate the features of independent claims 1 and 9 from which they depend.

In regard to newly added dependent claims 25 and 26, neither Kobayashi nor Mine et al., nor Kaku et al., nor the Madden 2000 instruction manual, considered either alone or together or in combination with Miyamoto et al. or any other cited references of record, teach or suggest Applicants' feature of providing different levels of playability (i.e., predetermined different handicaps) for different player-controlled characters by providing different extents of a field of view of the game space around a character controlled by a particular player, in the manner as set forth by those claims.

In regard to newly added dependent claims 27 and 28, these claims are patentable for at least the same reason as stated above in regard to independent claim 17 from which they depend.

As all objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed by the present Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative, using the telephone number listed below the signature line, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



William G. Niessen
Reg. No. 29,683

WGN/edg
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100